TAXONOMIC NOTES ON NORTH AMERICAN ANOBIIDAE WITH A NEW SPECIES (COLEOPTERA)

Richard E. White
Systematic Entomology Laboratory, IIBIII Agr. Res. Serv., USDA[1]

ABSTRACT—The genus *Ptinodes* is synonymized with the genus *Trichodesma*, and the characters previously used to distinguish the two are discussed and evaluated. *Eucratocerus grandis* White is synonymized with *E. hornii* Leconte, and the new species *E.* **parvus** is described. *Lasioderma dermestinum* Leconte is transferred to *Neosothes*, and *N. bicarinatus* White is synonymized with *dermestinum*. A key is provided for the 2 species of *Xarifa*.

Recent examination of type specimens in the Fall and Leconte collections of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard University has resulted in the following changes and notes.

Trichodesma Leconte

Trichodesma Leconte, 1861, p. 204.

Ptinodes Leconte, 1861, p. 204. NEW SYNONYM.

Leconte (1861) separated *Ptinodes* from *Trichodesma* as follows: "Mesosternum deeply and broadly excavated" for *Ptinodes*, versus "Mesosternum flat or scarcely concave" for *Trichodesma*. I have examined the holotype of *Ptinodes setifer* Lec. (the type-species of the monotypic genus; MCZ type no. 3606) and find no such difference. The mesosternum of *setifer* is a little more recessed anteriorly than is typical for species of *Trichodesma* (including the type-species, *T. gibbosa* (Say)), but this is a feeble difference and does not justify separation of the genera.

Fall (1905, p. 170) recognized the similarities of *Ptinodes* and *Trichodesma* but retained *Ptinodes* as distinct on the basis of the following: "the somewhat more strongly clavate femora; the ventral segments of more uniform length, except the fourth; and the narrower hind coxal plates." He also said "I have observed also that the antennal club is relatively longer than in *Trichodesma*." and later (page 171) added "The palpi are not clearly visible, but the last joint appears to be elongate fusiform. If this observation is correct, it is a point of importance in support of the validity of the genus."

Comparison of North American species of *Trichodesma* with *Ptinodes setifer* discloses the following: the femora of *setifer* are feebly to not at all more clavate than those of North American species of *Trichodesma*; the relative lengths of the abdominal segments of

---

[1] Mail address: c/o U.S. National Museum, Washington, D.C. 20560.

Trichodesma are variable, and the condition in *Ptinodes* is within the variation in *Trichodesma.* The difference in the hind coxal plates is feeble to nonexistent. The antennal club of *Trichodesma* is variable in length (longer in the male), and in some species (*beyeri, sordida*) the club is as long relative to the rest of the antenna as it is in *Ptinodes.* Lastly, the palpi of *Trichodesma* are generally as described by Fall in the above paper as follows: "The terminal joint of the maxillary palpi is elongate-parallel, with the apex broadly, squarely truncate and a little emarginate; last joint of labial palpi triangular, the apex broad and feebly emarginate." However, in *T. texana*, the apex of the maxillary palpus is distinctly emarginate, and in *T. sordida* the maxillary palpus is elongate fusiform with the apex narrowly truncate. The last segment of the labial palp in most *Trichodesma* is triangular, but in *beyeri* and *sordida* it is elongate-parallel. This variation in the palpi of *Trichodesma* species lessens the significance of the elongate fusiform palpi of *Ptinodes.* Of the above characters, the palpal structure offers the greatest differences between *Ptinodes* and *Trichodesma* but is too weak a basis for generic separation.

I have examined a species of *Trichodesma* (very near *T. sordida,* and apparently undescribed) which has the palpi as in *Ptinodes.* I have also examined Central American *Trichodesma* in light of the above characters and find even greater variation than is shown by North American species.

On page 204 of Leconte's (1861) paper *Ptinodes* has precedence of position over *Trichodesma*; however, by Article 24(a) of the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature, I select *Trichodesma* as the name for this taxon. The use of *Trichodesma* will best ensure stability of nomenclature, for *Trichodesma* is nearly world-wide and contains almost 50 species; *Ptinodes* has been used for just the California species *setifer.*

Euceratocerus Leconte

Euceratocerus Leconte, 1874, p. 65.

A new synonym and a new species are presented below.

Euceratocerus hornii Leconte

fig. 2

Euceratocerus hornii Leconte, 1874, p. 65.

Euceratocerus grandis White, 1966, p. 232. NEW SYNONYM.

Leconte's holotype of *hornii* (MCZ no. 3656) is a small male of the species I described as *grandis.* The only difference I find is that the specimen is a little lighter in color than is typical for the species being dull reddish brown with the head and (to a lesser extent) pronotum

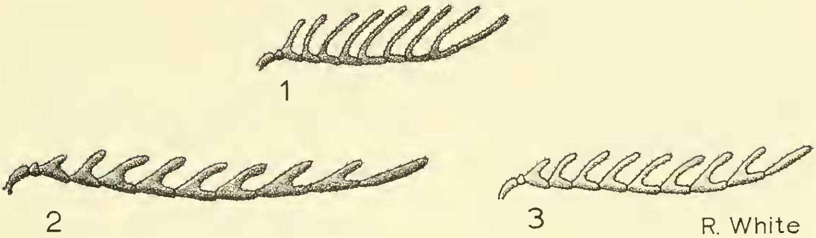

Fig. 1–3, *Euceratocerus*, male antennae. 1, *E. parvus*, n. sp. 2, *E. hornii* Lec. 3, *E. gibbifrons* White.

darker. I had assigned the name *hornii* on the basis of a specimen in the USNM identified as *hornii* by H. C. Fall. The latter specimen (and three others available to me) are an undescribed species for which I provide a name and description below.

Euceratocerus parvus White, new species

fig. 1

Euceratocerus hornii: White, 1966, p. 233, not Leconte.

General: Moderately elongate, sides nearly parallel, body 2.5 to 2.6 times as long as wide; body brown to dark brown, head and pronotum dark brown to black, legs and antennae brown; ventral surface moderately shiny, elytra, head and pronotum even less shiny; pubescence moderately dense, short, fine, gray with a slight sheen, weakly bristling on dorsal surface.

Head: Densely and finely granulate; front not protuberant; vertex unmodified, neither carinate nor sulcate; eyes of single male separated by a little over 2 times vertical diameter of an eye, eyes of female separated by about 2.5 to 2.6 times vertical diameter of an eye; antenna of male nearly ⅔ as long as body, segments 3 through 10 strongly pectinate (fig. 1), antenna of female about ½ as long as body, segments 3 through 10 strongly serrate, each segment a little wider than long, last segment about 5 times as long as wide; last segment of maxillary palpus about 2 times as long as wide, widest medially, apex obliquely truncate; last segment of labial palpus similar but more elongate, about 3 times as long as wide, widest before middle.

Dorsal surface: Pronotum as wide as base of elytra, lateral margin distinct throughout, very finely, irregularly serrate, surface finely, densely, quite distinctly granulate, granules larger than those on head, most strongly developed on disk, disk slightly produced before base, median line very feebly to not at all impressed on anterior slope; elytral surface finely granulate, granules not nearly as strongly developed as those on pronotum, striae fine, clearly traceable throughout, formed of simple, impressed punctures, usually some striae of an elytron more or less impressed, intervals nearly flat.

Ventral surface: Tarsi elongate, slightly shorter than to about as long as tibiae.

Length: 2.9 to 3.4 mm.

The female holotype (USNM no. 72661) bears the data "Victoria 3. 18. 08 Tx; In Spanish moss; JDMitchell Collector; *Euceratocerus hornii* Lec. det. Arn. '50." The two female paratypes (in USNM) bear the data "Victoria 21.3 Tex; EASchwarz Collector; HCFall deter.; *Euceratocerus hornii*"; and "Victoria 3–13. 08 Tx; JDMitchell Collector; In Spanish moss; *Euceratocerus horni* Lec." The male characters are from a once-whole male paratype (in USNM) with the data "College Station, Tex. March 23, 1963, S. G. Wellso under bark of redbud tree." The specimen is now badly damaged with just an elytron and an antenna remaining.

This species differs from the other 2 species in the genus (*hornii* Lec. and *gibbifrons* White) in the smaller size and the more strongly pectinate male antenna. It is 2.9 to 3.4 mm long; the other two species range from 3.2 to 5.9 mm long. The ramus of the 4th antennal segment of the male of *parvus* is about 3 times as long as the segment, whereas the ramus of the 4th antennal segment (male) of both *hornii* (fig. 2) and *gibbifrons* (fig. 3) is a little longer than the segment. The male antennae of *hornii* and *gibbifrons* differ from each other in that the 9th and 10th segments of the former are incised for ⅓ their length; the 9th and 10th segments of the latter are incised for about ½ of their length.

In my key to the species of *Euceratocerus* (White, 1966, p. 233) *grandis* should be changed to *hornii*, and *hornii* should be changed to *parvus*.

Neosothes White

Neosothes White, 1967, p. 43.

Neosothes dermestinus (Leconte), NEW COMBINATION.

Lasioderma dermestinum Leconte, 1865, p. 238.

Neosothes bicarinatus White, 1967, p. 45. NEW SYNONYM.

I find no significant differences between a paratype of *N. bicarinatus* (this bears the same locality date as the holotype) and the type of *L. dermestinum* (MCZ type no. 3626) so the above changes become essential.

Xarifa Fall

Fall (1905, p. 137–8) described the genus *Xarifa* and the single included species *insularis*. Later Fall (1929, p. 57) added the species *lobata* to *Xarifa* but failed to provide a key to the two species. Following is a key to species; I have seen the holotype of *insularis* (MCZ no. 24672) and the single paratype of *lobata* (also in MCZ).

Key to species of *Xarifa*

1. Body brown; length 2.4 to 2.6 mm, antennal club as long as preceding 4 segments united .... *lobata* Fall

— Body orange brown to red brown; length 1.5 to 2.2 mm; antennal club as long as preceding 6 to 8 segments united .... *insularis* Fall

My thanks for assistance are offered to John Lawrence and Janice White of the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.

REFERENCES

Fall, H. C. 1905. Revision of the Ptinidae of Boreal America. Trans. Amer. Entomol. Soc. 31:97–296.

————. 1929. New Coleoptera. XIII. Canadian Entomol. 61(3):54–59.

Leconte, J. L. 1861. Classification of the Coleoptera of North America. Smiths. Misc. Coll. 3(1):1–208.

————. 1865. Prodromus of a monograph of the species of the tribe Anobiini, of the Family Ptinidae, inhabiting North America. Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci. Phil. 17:222–244.

————. 1874. Descriptions of new Coleoptera chiefly from the Pacific slope of North America. Trans. Amer. Entomol. Soc. 5:43–72.

White, R. E. 1966. Six new Anobiidae from North America with keys. Proc. Entomol. Soc. Wash. 68(3):228–236.

————. 1967. *Neosothes*, a new genus with three new species from the Americas (Coleoptera; Anobiidae). Entomol. News 78(2):43–50.